



Regional Service Council Minutes Region 8

Meeting Date: September 29, 2006

Meeting Location: Vigo County DCS
30 N. 8th Street
Terre Haute, IN 47803

Council Members Present: Mike Baker, Vigo County DCS Supervisor; Glenn Cardwell, Vigo County Director; Susan Lesko, Acting Regional Manager, Region 8; Katie Edington, Parke/Vermillion County Director; Diana Thomson, Clay County FCM.

Council Members Absent: Diana Lancaster, CASA, Clay County; Susan Marcum, Parke County Foster Parent; Pam Connelly, Director, Clay/Sullivan County Director; Hon. Robert Pell, Clay; Hon. P. J. Pierson, Sullivan; Hon. Paulette Stagg, Vigo; Hon. Bruce Stengel, Vermillion; Hon. Sam Swaim, Parke.

Others in Attendance: Nyala Bolen, Friends of Family; Nancy Edgerton, Hamilton Center; Jody Horstman, Hamilton Center; Penny Pitcock, Dodson & Shively; Tuovia Amerman, ISU; Peggy Weber, ISU; Heidi Wheeler, Clay/Vigo County Supervisor

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Called to Order at: 9:00 A.M.

Susan Lesko welcomed attendees and led the introductions. Minutes were reviewed and corrections noted.

Agenda items were discussed as follows.

1. Development of a Regional Plan

Susan confirmed the decision to forgo hiring a consultant and use the information that Nyala gathers to address the gaps in services. Susan stated that the Strategic Regional Plan continues to be developed and more direction will be forthcoming on what it should encompass.

Discussion was held as to whether we should make the Early Intervention Plan into a Regional Plan. Each county is charged to present a plan each year that addresses gaps in services for prevention. The completion date is March of each year. Decision was made that each county will bring their Early Intervention Plan to next month's meeting. Susan

said that plans should be more meaningful as we move away from Voluntary Service cases to Community Partners. The consensus was that Region 8 will do a Regional Plan.

In order to identify gaps for the region, Nyala is to bring any past matrix of services she may have. ISU students are working on a community mapping project of services.

2. Community Forum

Susan stated that Sullivan County had received a grant of \$1000.00 for training. Pam's thoughts are to use the grant to have Dr. Laskey provide training similar to the one that was held in April 2006. Nyala suggested that we instead sponsor "Bridges Out of Poverty" because of the scope of poverty in Region 8. Nyala discussed the monthly programs that the Prevent Child Abuse Council is sponsoring at the Landsbaum Center. Each month a different agency will take the lead and organize a forum. The Council decided to use the grant for Dr. Laskey and to incorporate the program into April's forum. Peggy Weber said that she will work on getting CEU's for this program, but we need to see her on this as soon as possible.

Directors discussed trends of abuse that they are seeing in their counties and that they would like to see these targeted for a community education campaign. Topics were bed sharing deaths; the abandoned infant protocol; the reduction of the local meth task force and how that has impacted the region. Suggestions were solicited as to the best forum to use to educate the community. Susan asked Nyala to invite maternal health to come to the next meeting and advise the Council as to what is currently being done and how best to reach new mothers.

3. Community Partners Update (Nyala)

Nyala has completed her visits to every county except Parke which is scheduled. Next week she is meeting with agencies to find out how to interface and subcontract for services. She is recruiting for the Governance Committee. It was suggested that this Council fill that role until the details are worked out. Katie suggested a parent from Clinton that is very involved; Nyala thought she is a good choice.

Nyala stated that there has been a slowing down of the process until there is a clearer picture of how the Council will be able to attain its goals and how long the funding will last. The differing needs of rural and urban counties were discussed and it was thought that a Wraparound model works best for rural areas.

4. IV-B Coordinator Update (Penny)

Penny stated that contracts have gone out. She made the following points about the referral forms:

- Need to make the service title as it reads in the service standards.
- Referral forms are being sent back to counties for correction in order to prevent chargebacks later by Providers if they are audited.

- Fill in all dates on the form. The end date should be no longer than 6 months.
- Tracking is being done on the timeliness of the process; i.e., date of the 310 - to the date services identified - to when services begin.
- If you wish to extend the services, in 6 months you will need to update the form (if needed) and change the referral date and end date of service.
- A pilot is being conducted on newest version of the form to make sure it is ready for distribution.
- There must be a separate referral form for each service title.
- Forms can be sent electronically to N. Manchester office and the provider. Attaching a copy of the email can substitute for signature for county authorization.

Penny also gave out list of IV-B service providers and adoption providers.

5. Other Business

Peggy Weber, Field Coordinator for ISU interns, updated the Council as to the status of the six interns. Talks with Stephanie Beasley and M.B. Lippold yielded the following points: all students have access to ICWIS, no drug or alcohol screens are required, and it is the county's responsibility to get interns fingerprinted. Peggy stated that it is up to the county's discretion when to have interns interact with kids and families. The students do have assignments that require interaction with clients. FCM's can observe interns and sign off on requirements when a supervisor is not available. Peggy asks that any concerns be brought to her attention. She stated that interns have voiced that they are not seeing the complete process of the interviews and the ensuing paperwork that follows because of their schedules. Any assistance by the FCM's would be greatly appreciated. Diana made the suggestion that interns bring their own log sheets to interviews and notes can be used for discussion, questions and be incorporated into ICWIS work.

Kelly Cruise from Wernle Children's Home reviewed their services and history.

Next Meeting Date, Location and Time: The next meeting will be held on October 27, 2006 at 9:00 A.M. in the second floor conference room.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 A.M.